

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 OPIC-06 /034 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4405

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 0815

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, OCON, AR

SUBJ: INVITATION FOR AGRICULTURAL SECRETARY BELL TO ATTEND
WORLD MEAT CONGRESS

1. ON FEB 3 THE AMBASSADOR, THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND SEVERAL OTHER EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS HAD LUNCH WITH A GROUP THAT INCLUDED ING. AGR. ALBERTO DE LAS CARRERAS, PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION OF MEAT PROCESSORS (LARGEST EXPORTERS) AND ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE FORTHCOMING WORLD MEAT CONGRESS WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR BUENOS AIRES AUG 3-6 AND IS BEING SPONSORED BY OPIC (INTERNATIONAL PERMANENT MEAT OFFICE), THE ARGENTINE RURAL SOCIETY AND THE ARGENTINE MEAT BOARD. ING. DE LAS CARRERAS GAVE THE AMBASSADOR COPIES OF LETTERS OF INVITATION THAT HAVE BEEN SENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARD BELL AND ALSO TO DR. JERRY CALLIS OF PLUM ISLAND.

2. DE LAS CARRERAS STRESSED THE POTENTIAL GAIN THAT COULD COME TO U.S. - ARGENTINA RELATIONS FROM A DISCUSSION BY A PERSON OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL'S STATURE. HE POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE YEARS PEOPLE IN ARGENTINA HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF U.S. FOR ITS POLICIES ON RESTRICTING IMPORTS OF MEAT FROM COUNTRIES ENDEMIC WITH FOOT-AND MOUTH DISEASE BUT THAT FEW PEOPLE REALIZE THAT IT WAS ONLY THE U.S. MARKET THAT WAS KEPT OPEN OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS WHEN ALL OF ARGENTINA'S FORMER PRIZED MARKETS CLOSED THEIR DOORS. DE LAS CARRERAS FEELS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD EXPLOIT THIS POINT AND THAT THIS MEAT
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CONGRESS WOULD BE AN IDEAL PLACE TO DO IT.

3. THE AMBASSADOR ENDORSES ING. DE LAS CARRERAS' POSITION AND FEELS STRONGLY THAT IF ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL CAN FIT THE CONGRESS INTO HIS SCHEDULE, HE SHOULD ATTEND. ALSO AN ARRIVAL AROUND JULY 31 WOULD MEAN THAT HE COULD ALSO BE THE OFFICIAL U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PALERMO LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION WHICH WILL BE AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL SHOW THIS YEAR. IN THE EVENT THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY BELL WOULD BE UNABLE TO ATTEND, DE LAS CARRERAS SUGGESTED DR. DON PAARLBERG WHO HE HAS PERSONALLY MET WITH IN WASHINGTON. EMBASSY URGES AGRICULTURE TO GIVE THIS INVITATION EVERY CONSIDERATION.
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